

Applicants: Mangin et al.
Application No.: 10/696,845
Attorney Docket No.: 792-114 RCE

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 to 35 of, and add claims 36 to 38 to the above-identified application according to the following Listing of Claims. The Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and Listing of Claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:

a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,

an expandable prosthesis having first and second ends, means for releasably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member, and

a visual marker having an outer surface from which light leaves such that the light has a wavelength defining a first color and within the visible spectrum of the naked eye of the operator, said visual marker overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends and being capable of being seen by the operator in the field of view secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body,

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wherein the means for releaseably securing the prosthesis has an outer surface from which light leaves such that the light has a wavelength defining a second color with within the visible spectrum of the naked eye of the operator, the first color of the visual marker being visually distinct from the second color of the means for releaseably securing the prosthesis.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes releasing means operable from the proximal extremity of the flexible elongate member.
3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes crocheted material extending along at least a portion of the length of the prosthesis.
4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the crocheted material includes a thread having a plurality of loops extending around the prosthesis.
5. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein the visual marker is a colored marker looped around the thread and bound to the prosthesis by the thread.
6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein the visual marker is an additional thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

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7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein a portion of the thread is tightly spaced loops around the prosthesis to form the visual marker.
8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the prosthesis is a stent.
9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the prosthesis has a first length when secured to the flexible elongate member and a second length different from the first length when released from the flexible elongate member.
10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the visual marker is secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis a distance from one of the first and second ends of the prosthesis equal to the second length to facilitate desired placement of the prosthesis in the cavity.
11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the prosthesis foreshortens during release from the flexible elongate member, the second length being shorter than the first length so as to reflect such foreshortening.

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12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the visual marker is secured to the prosthesis.
13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the visual marker includes a colored band extending around the prosthesis.
14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the means for releasably securing includes a thread for crocheting the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member, the thread being secured to the colored band so that upon pulling the thread to release the prosthesis the colored band is pulled off the prosthesis and onto the flexible elongate member.
15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.
16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the visual marker is a bioabsorbable material extending around a portion of the prosthesis.
17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the bioabsorbable material is a gelatin.

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18 to 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:

a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,

an expandable prosthesis having a length and first and second ends,

means for releaseably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member extending along substantially the entire length of the prosthesis in a repeating pattern, ~~for~~ and

a visual marker having an outer surface from which light leaves such that the light has a wavelength defining a first color and within the visible spectrum of the naked eye of the operator, said visual marker overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends and being capable of being seen by the operator in the field of view is secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body,

wherein the means for releaseably securing the prosthesis has an outer surface from which light leaves such that the light has a wavelength defining a second color with within the visible spectrum of the naked eye of the operator, the first color of the visual marker being

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visually distinct from the second color of the repeating pattern of the means for releasably securing.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread.
25. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.
26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the visual marker includes a colored band extending around the prosthesis.
27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the means for releasably securing includes crocheted material extending along at least a portion of the length of the prosthesis.
28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the crocheted material includes a thread having a plurality of loops extending in the repeating pattern around the prosthesis, a portion of the thread being tightly spaced loops different from the repeating pattern to form the visual marker.

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29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the visual marker is an additional thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

30. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:

a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,

an expandable prosthesis,

means for releaseably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member, and

a visual marker having an outer surface from which light leaves such that the light has a wavelength defining a first color and within the visible spectrum of the naked eye of the operator such that said visual marker is capable of being seen by the operator under direct visualization, said visual marker overlying the prosthesis and being distinct from the means for releaseably securing for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body,

wherein the means for releaseably securing for facilitating placement of the prosthesis has a an outer surface from which light leaves such that the light has a wavelength defining a second color within the visible spectrum of the naked eye of the operator, the second color being visually distinct from the first color of the visual marker.

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31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread.
32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.
33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker includes a colored band extending around the prosthesis.
34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.
35. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the expandable prosthesis has first and second ends, the visual marker overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends.
36. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said outer surface of said visual marker comprises silicone.

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37. (New) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said outer surface of said visual marker comprises silicone.

38. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said outer surface of said visual marker comprises silicone.